

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 16, 33-39, and 58-62 have been cancelled without prejudice. After amending the claims, claims 1-2 and 4-15, 17-32, and 40-57 are pending in this application.

Rejected Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 58-61 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,688,415 (*Bollinger et al.*); claims 33-34, 36-39, and 58-62 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,811,021 (*Zarowin et al.*); and claims 16, 33-39, and 58-62 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,397,420 (*Sakakibara et al.*). Applicants disagree with the rejections. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled the rejected claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Allowed Claims

In Section 21 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-15, 17-32, and 40-57 are noted as allowed.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

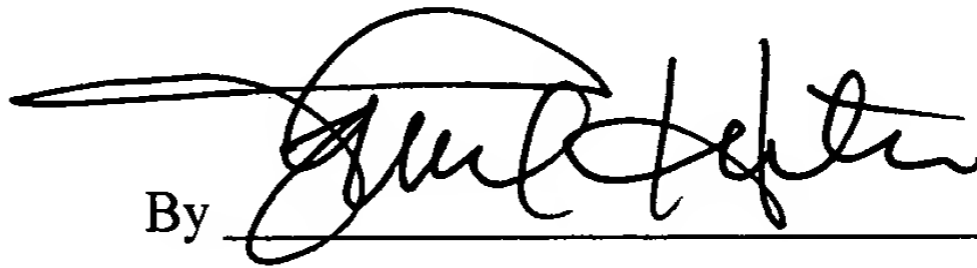
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2350.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 14 JUNE 2004

By



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